



**Friends of
Connecticut
Libraries**

**Middletown Lib. Service Ctr.
786 South Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457**

March 6, 2015

**Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on Education**

Senators and Representatives:

I am writing to you to express my concern and dismay over Governor Malloy's proposed funding cuts in the Connecticut State Library support to the state's public libraries. Specific programs under consideration are the Connecticard program, Connecticut Library Consortium and Grants to Public Libraries, and a reduction in the State-Wide Digital Library (ICONN and REQUEST) program.

These are important programs because make they make resources available to Connecticut's communities that would not be available if they were funded solely at the local level. As you well know all of our communities regardless of size struggle to fund their necessary services including their public libraries.

Grants to Public Libraries are particularly sensitive because they often are joint programs with the federal government and they require Connecticut's participation. Otherwise funding does not happen. Governor Malloy's Bill No. 942, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Education" repeals the original legislation that created these programs.

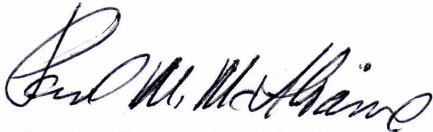
Good libraries make for good communities. One thing we learned from Hurricane Sandy was that libraries are truly community centers. It took as many as eight (8) days to restore electrical services throughout the state. Meanwhile, cell tower backup power supplies were running down and cell phone coverage was shrinking. Libraries, fortunate enough to have their own generators, were full of people. There they found safety, they found shelter,

"To Promote Library Enrichment For The State, Community And The Individual"

they contacted relatives and friends, and they managed their lives. Much of this was made possible through the resources and programs now considered for either elimination or reduction. Libraries are so much more than books on shelves. They are centers for communities.

In closing, I strongly urge you to consider the local impact should the Legislature accepts the Governor's program and please continue supporting these valuable programs.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul M. McIlvaine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being more prominent and the last name "McIlvaine" written in a continuous script.

Paul M. McIlvaine, President
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